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MONDAY
SEPTEMBER 21, 1953

I had lunch with Graham Martin today. He was at home for two months this summer and has lately returned. He described to me the many administrati changes which have taken place in the Department of State and the confusion bred as a result not only of these but also of the reduced appropriations and the consequent elimination of part of the existing personnel.

Harold Callender called on me this afternoon in connection with the news which has filtered out rather generally of what has recently happened in the French Cabinet debates on instructions to be given to the French Delegation for the Rome meeting of the European Political Community commencing tomorrow. It seems the disputes have been violent but that Bidault has yielded on the point of supranationality sufficiently to appease Teitgen at least for the time being. However, Reynaud is said still to be alarmed over other features of the instructions and the Gaullists have expressed their dissatisfaction with the whole procedure although they have not threatened to resign their posts and thus precipitate a Governmental crisis. They apparently wish to reserve their position and have a parliamentary debate on the subject before the meeting of Foreign Ministers at The Hague on October 20.

Tonight Messrs. Harold Callender, Preston Grover of the Associated Press, Schoenbrun of the Columbia Broadcasting System, Robert Kleiman of U. S. News and World Report, and Barrett McGurn of the New York Herald Tribune came to dinner with me. They were all pleased with the 1921 Ch. Pichon Longueville.

We talked until midnight. Amongst the correspondents there appeared to be no unanimity of opinion except on two points: ~~(1) that the political weakness~~ of France is well-nigh incurable since it is founded fundamentally on the individualism of the French people; and (2) that ~~certainly in this present~~ conjuncture Monsieur Bidault could not be trusted since he was all things to

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all parties and would play that game as long as possible, thus postponing any definite commitment by France on the EDC and on the supranational aspects of the Political Community. All of the correspondents said [redacted] if they were betting on EDC ratification they would wager it would be accomplished in the French Parliament without, however, setting a time limit on such action. Some expressed serious doubt as to whether the NATO strategic plan any longer was sensible since the hydrogen explosion in Russia. They seemed agreed, however, that American foreign policy should continue to support the effort to bring about a German military contribution to the defense of Europe through EDC since there was no practical alternative manner of accomplishing this end.

We really had a fine evening with much good-natured and spirited argument.

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